

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CE-224

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

File 866

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Rowlandsville Iron Bridge over the Octomero

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rowlandsville

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Cecil

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT  
☐ BUILDING(S)  
☒ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☒ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☒ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CE-884

**CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

---

The Rowlandsville Iron Bridge c. 1890-1900 is located in the small town of Rowlandsville on the Octorara Creek. The bridge is a single span Pratt through truss. The span is approximately seventy five feet across.

It is one of several along the Octorara Creek and although it has lost its date plack the bridge is identical to the dated ones around the turn of the 20th century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

---

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This bridge, unlike most of the iron bridges in the area, receives more traffic and is probably susceptible to removal. This iron bridge helps to create the late 19th century and early 20th century atmosphere of the area.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Paul B. Touart Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Cecil County Committee

DATE

2/5/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Cecil County Courthouse

TELEPHONE

398-7568

CITY OR TOWN

Elkton

STATE

Maryland 21921

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Rowlandsville

CE-42, CE-789, <sup>CE-881</sup>CE-882, CE-883, CE-884, CE-885, CE-886, CE-887

Rowlandsville derives its name from the Rowland family who have lived along the banks of the Octoraro Creek since their first purchase of a tract of land called "Glass House" in 1749. A number of factors have contributed to the economic and community development of the town. Grist and saw mills have operated on both the Octoraro Creek and its tributary Bason's Run ( Beeson's Run ) in the 18th Century along with the manufacture of iron in the very late 18<sup>th</sup> Century and most of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Nineteenth Century continuation of grain processing remained under the name of Davis Christy and Co. The McCullough Iron Company continued the manufacture of iron in mid century after buying the property in 1859. Extensive remains of the factory attest to the importance this iron manufacturer played in boosting Rowlandsville to more than a grist mill community. Like many industrial complexes, mill housing was constructed to house company workers and their families. Three sturdy granite and fieldstone structures (CE-886) once housed iron company employees along the east bank of the Octoraro Creek.

Residential and commercial structures were built on both sides of the Octoraro Creek which are now connected by a late 19th Century Pratt Through Truss Bridge. Steep hillsides restricted extensive town development but did not contain construction to the relatively few flat plots of ground. Frame structures with elevated and exposed basements compensated for the drastic change in slope. (CE-882) Rowlandsville was also blessed with the presence of a town railroad depot for the Phila. Balt. Central R.R. This

asset undoubtedly provided Rowlandsville the exposure it needed to remain vital through the 19th and early 20th Centuries. Morocoto Paper Co. bought the iron mill complex in 1892 and produced roofing paper into the early 20th Century, until the operation burned and left the structures in ruin. Trains no longer pass through Rowlandsville and like many of its kind, the town is a quiet residential community. Two elevated train bridges were built south of Rowlandsville to cross the Octoraro. The first one was built by A and P Roberts Company at Pencoyd Iron Works in 1901. (CE-881) It is a single lane reinforced iron wall bridge with supporting granite piers that runs through the mammoth reinforced concrete arches of the higher two lane Penn Central Bridge (CE-883). These two structures, although dramatically placed, do not bring commerce to Rowlandsville only over it.



4397

CE-884

4396

42'30"

4395

RISING SUN 3.3 MI.  
PHILADELPHIA, PA. 58 MI.

4394

(RISING SUN)  
5763 II NE

4393

4392

40'

4391

CONOWINGO  
DAM QUAD.

884





ROWLANDSVILLE, 1 ROW BRIDGE

CE 884

ROWLANDSVILLE, MD.

EAST ELEVATION

6/78

PBT



CE-884

ROWLANDSVILLE IRON BRIDGE

ROWLANDSVILLE, MD.

~~WAS~~ SOUTHEAST ELEV.

6/78 PBT